The Century: America’s Time The BEST Years (1946 – 1952)

1. Who did President Truman bring as his special guest to his Truman’s home state of Missouri? What famous speech does he give (answer is an iconic cold war term)?
2. Who did Truman and America see as the “tyrant still left in Europe?”
3. The GI Bill is a law guaranteeing veterans (returning soldiers) certain benefits. What were those benefits? How did it help the American economy as well?
4. What was Levittown? Why is it significant?
5. What were some immediate effects of the Baby Boom?
6. How did a woman’s role in society change from WWII to the period just after WWII?
7. Consider the contributions of Black soldiers during WWII to how they were treated when they returned home. How did America’s actions contradict it’s ideology?
8. Identify Jackie Robinson’s significance in US History.
9. How did the United States deal with Japan after the war? What general was in charge?
10. Just after the war, what was the state of the Germany? Looking back in history, why were many American’s alarmed by this?
11. Contrast how the Russians treated the Germans compared to how the Americans treated the Germans. Why the difference?
12. What did Stalin do in June of 1948? What was the reaction of the United States? What was this known as?
13. How long did it take after the US dropped the Atomic Bomb in 1945 for the Soviets to develop their own bomb? How did Americans react (be specific)?
14. Who took control of China in 1949? Why is that significant during the “Cold War”?
15. What caused the US involvement in the Korean War?
16. How did the Korean war end?
17. Compare the reception that the troops returning from WWII received to the troops returning from the Korean war?
18. Why did Americans view the Korean War differently than WWII?
19. Identify the “Rosenbergs” significance in US History.
20. Identify “Joseph McCarthy’s” significance in US History. What did he do that has made him infamous in US political history?
21. What happened to many people in Hollywood due to the Red Scare? Who were the Hollywood 10?
22. What was the FBI’s role in the 2nd Red Scare (fear of communism)?
23. General MacArthur was the leader of the US troops in Korea. What was his solution for defeating the Chinese and winning the Korean War? What was Truman’s response to MacArthur? What did that lead to?
24. What was the new and improved atomic bomb called? How much more powerful was it than the ones dropped on Japan?
25. What was the name given to the new super calculator?
26. Who was elected to the presidency in 1952? What was his nickname? What message/technique did he use to win the election?

**AP ONLY: Many people are very nostalgic for this time period. They tend to idealize it as “the best years” hence the name of this video. There was another side, however. How could you dispute that these were the “best years?” What evidence could you use as support?**